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**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for pruning search engine indices, the method comprising:
  - 5 receiving a notification from a client browser that a Web page retrieval error occurred for a Web page or that the Web page no longer contains selected keywords; and
  - 10 automatically deleting the Web page from the search engine indices in response to receiving the notification.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of automatically deleting is initiated if the notification results in a minimum number of notifications being received for the Web page.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - receiving a search request from the client browser, wherein the search request contains the selected keywords;
  - 20 searching the search engine indices for matches to the selected keywords to form a search; and
  - sending a result of the search to the client browser.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the result includes an indication that the data processing system includes a search engine to cause the client browser to send the notification to the data processing system.
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5. The method of claim 4, wherein the search request includes other keywords in addition to the selected keywords.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieval error  
5 indicates that the Web page is absent.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is located in one of a search engine or a Web portal.

8. A method in a data processing system for managing entries in a Web page database, the method comprising:  
10 receiving a notification from a client browser that a retrieval error occurred for a Web page; and  
automatically deleting an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database in response to receiving the notification.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of  
15 automatically deleting the entry occurs only if the notification causes a number of notifications received for the entry to exceed a threshold value.

10. The method of claim 8 further comprising:  
20 receiving a search request from the client browser;  
searching the Web page database for matches to the request to generate a result; and  
sending the result generated from searching the Web page database to the client browser, wherein the result  
25 includes an indicator that the data processing system includes a search engine to cause the client browser to return the notification.

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11. The method of claim 8, wherein the notification is a first type of notification and further comprising: receiving a second type of notification from a client browser that at least one selected search term is absent  
5 from the Web page; and

automatically deleting an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database in response to receiving the second type of notification.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the method is located  
10 in one of a search engine or a Web portal.

13. A method in a data processing system for removing a faulty entry from an index of Web pages, the method comprising:

receiving a result from a server, wherein the result  
15 includes links to Web pages corresponding to a search request;

requesting a Web page identified by a link in the links in response to a user input selecting the link; and

20 sending a notification to the server in response to an error occurring in retrieving the Web page.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

receiving the Web page to form a retrieved Web page;  
and

25 sending a notification to the server in response to an absence of selected keywords in the Web page.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the method is performed by a browser.

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16. A method in a data processing system for managing a set of bookmarks for a browser, the method comprising:

    sending a request for a Web page in response to a selection of a bookmark from the set of bookmarks,

5   wherein the bookmark is associated with the Web page; and  
    responsive to an error in retrieving the Web page, selectively removing the bookmark.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the selectively removing step comprises:

10   determining whether the error has occurred more than a selected number of times; and

    responsive to the error occurring more than the selected number of times, removing the bookmark from the set of bookmarks.

15 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the selectively removing step comprises:

    determining whether the error has occurred more than a selected number of times; and

20   responsive to the error occurring more than a selected amount of times, generating a user prompt to remove the bookmark.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the selectively removing step further comprises:

25   removing the bookmark in response to a user input to remove the bookmark.

20. A data processing system for pruning search engine indices, the data processing system comprising:

    a bus system;

    a communications unit connected to the bus system;

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a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of  
5 instructions to receive a notification from a client browser that a Web page retrieval error occurred for a Web page or that the Web page no longer contains selected keywords; and automatically delete the Web page from the search engine indices in response to receiving the  
10 notification.

21. A data processing system for managing entries in a Web page database, the data processing system comprising:

a bus system;  
a communications unit connected to the bus system;  
15 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and  
a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to receive a notification from a client  
20 browser that a retrieval error occurred for a Web page; and automatically delete an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database in response to receiving the notification.

22. A data processing system for removing a faulty entry  
25 from an index of Web pages, the data processing system comprising:

a bus system;  
a communications unit connected to the bus system;  
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the  
30 memory includes as set of instructions; and

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a processing unit connected to the bus system,  
wherein the processing unit executes the set of  
instructions to receive a result from a server, wherein  
the result includes links to Web pages corresponding to a  
5 search request; request a Web page identified by a link  
in the links in response to a user input selecting the  
link; and send a notification to the server in response  
to an error occurring in retrieving the Web page.

23. A data processing system for managing a set of  
10 bookmarks for a browser, the data processing system  
comprising:  
a bus system;  
a communications unit connected to the bus system;  
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the  
15 memory includes as set of instructions; and  
a processing unit connected to the bus system,  
wherein the processing unit executes the set of  
instructions to send a request for a Web page in response  
to a selection of a bookmark from the set of bookmarks in  
20 which the bookmark is associated with the Web page; and  
selectively remove the bookmark in response to an error  
in retrieving the Web page.

24. A data processing system for pruning search engine  
indices, the data processing system comprising:  
25 receiving means for receiving a notification from a  
client browser that a Web page retrieval error occurred  
for a Web page or that the Web page no longer contains  
selected keywords; and

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deleting means for automatically deleting the Web page from the search engine indices in response to receiving the notification.

25. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the  
5 means of automatically deleting is initiated if the notification results in a minimum number of notifications being received for the Web page.

26. The data processing system of claim 24 wherein the  
10 receiving means is a first receiving means further comprising:

second receiving means for receiving a search request from the client browser, wherein the search request contains the selected keywords;

15 searching means for searching the search engine indices for matches to the selected keywords to form a search; and

sending means for sending a result of the search to the client browser.

27. The data processing system of claim 26, wherein the  
20 result includes an indication that the data processing system includes a search engine to cause the client browser to send the notification to the data processing system.

28. The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the  
25 search request includes other keywords in addition to the selected keywords.

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29. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the retrieval error indicates that the Web page is absent.

30. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the data processing system is located in one of a search engine or a Web portal.

31. A data processing system for managing entries in a Web page database, the data processing system comprising:  
receiving means for receiving a notification from a client browser that a retrieval error occurred for a Web page; and  
deleting means for automatically deleting an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database in response to receiving the notification.

32. The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the deleting means is initiated only if the notification causes a number of notifications received for the entry to exceed a threshold value.

33. The data processing system of claim 31 further comprising:  
receiving means for receiving a search request from the client browser;  
searching means for searching the Web page database for matches to the request to generate a result; and  
sending means for sending the result generated from searching the Web page database to the client browser, wherein the result includes an indicator that the data processing system includes a search engine to cause the client browser to return the notification.

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34. The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the notification is a first type of notification and the receiving means is a first receiving means and further comprising:

- 5       second receiving means for receiving a second type of notification from a client browser that at least one selected search term is absent from the Web page; and  
      deleting means for automatically deleting an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database  
10     in response to receiving the second type of notification.

35. The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the receiving means and the deleting means are located in one of a search engine or a Web portal.

36. A data processing system for removing a faulty entry  
15     from an index of Web pages, the data processing system comprising:

- receiving means for receiving a result from a server, wherein the result includes links to Web pages corresponding to a search request;  
20     requesting means for requesting a Web page identified by a link in the links in response to a user input selecting the link; and  
      sending means for sending a notification to the server in response to an error occurring in retrieving  
25     the Web page.

37. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the receiving means is a first receiving means and further comprising:

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second receiving means for receiving the Web page to form a retrieved Web page; and

5 sending means for sending a notification to the server in response to an absence of selected keywords in the Web page.

38. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the means is performed by a browser.

39. A data processing system for managing a set of bookmarks for a browser, the data processing system  
10 comprising:

sending means for sending a request for a Web page in response to a selection of a bookmark from the set of bookmarks, wherein the bookmark is associated with the Web page; and

15 removing means, responsive to an error in retrieving the Web page, for selectively removing the bookmark.

40. The data processing system of claim 39, wherein the removing means comprises:

20 determining means for determining whether the error has occurred more than a selected number of times; and

removing means, responsive to the error occurring more than the selected number of times, for removing the bookmark from the set of bookmarks.

41. The data processing system of claim 39, wherein the  
25 removing means comprises:

determining means for determining whether the error has occurred more than a selected number of times; and

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generating means, responsive to the error occurring more than a selected amount of times, for generating a user prompt to remove the bookmark.

42. The data processing system of claim 41, wherein the  
5 removing means further comprises:

removing means for removing the bookmark in response to a user input to remove the bookmark.

43. A computer program product in a computer readable  
10 medium for pruning search engine indices, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a notification from a client browser that a Web page retrieval error occurred for a Web page or that the Web page no longer contains selected keywords; and

- 15 second instructions for automatically deleting the Web page from the search engine indices in response to receiving the notification.

44. A computer program product in a computer readable  
20 medium for managing entries in a Web page database, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a notification from a client browser that a retrieval error occurred for a Web page; and

- 25 second instructions for automatically deleting an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database in response to receiving the notification.

45. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for removing a faulty entry from an index of Web

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pages, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a result from a server, wherein the result includes links to Web pages corresponding to a search request;

5 second instructions for requesting a Web page identified by a link in the links in response to a user input selecting the link; and

third instructions for sending a notification to the server in response to an error occurring in retrieving  
10 the Web page.

46. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing a set of bookmarks for a browser, the computer program product comprising:

15 first instructions for sending a request for a Web page in response to a selection of a bookmark from the set of bookmarks, wherein the bookmark is associated with the Web page; and

second instructions, responsive to an error in retrieving the Web page, for selectively removing the  
20 bookmark.

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